

PTSAC

Sub-committee Recommendation: Study of Wisconsin Ave Bike Lane

Date: November 2, 2010

Subcommittee: Bicycle Access and Safety

Subcommittee Chairperson/s: Steve Friedman and Peter Moe

Other Participants and Technical Advisors: Alan Migdall

Subcommittee Charge: Support the PTSAC's mission through discussion and analysis of county-wide issues affecting bicyclists access and safety and to make recommendations on such issues.

Recommendations: Recommended that the PTSAC approve a request to the State Highway Administration to conduct a study and impact analysis of creating bike lanes on Wisconsin Avenue between Western Avenue and Bradley Blvd to provide a "safe haven" for cyclists currently using Wisconsin Avenue between and beyond these points.

Justification and Explanation: These bike lanes could be fashioned after the recently developed bike lanes on Pennsylvania Avenue in DC (see Post article - <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/06/22/AR2010062204922.html>). Committee members have ridden on them and believe them to be a safe and reliable way of moving bicycles across this busy boulevard without hampering access and traffic flow by both motorists and pedestrians. By creating such bike lanes, cyclists will have a safer way to move about a main artery instead of trying to ride with motorists in what creates a hazardous situation. The distance of the road in question is one mile and is limited by the inability to widen the exiting sidewalk without tremendous expense and is limited on the east side of Wisconsin Avenue by the border with a country club and no existing sidewalk. In addition, SHA is holding public hearings on the Bradley Blvd bikeway development and if these can be tied together it would provide formal development of a necessary network of bicycle specific travel lanes for Bethesda outside of the downtown district. The Bradley Blvd improvements can be found in the newsletter accessible at this link - <http://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT-DTE/Project/>.

Motion Approved by PTSAC: